Tuesday

July 27/76.

Dear Bob,

I am sending you a transcription (my only copy) of about ½ of Marie Coffin's files, which for the most part, I have done little editing or polishing. (I have an idea that she intended to do it for the final draft.) I haven't done much because it is difficult to pick up on someone else's work, I have no access to source material and I am not altogether clear about just how you visualize the finished product.

You said something about three lines for each house but you may want to allow more space. I hope so because it will be more interesting if more information can be included. It seems to me that it needs to be prepared for three levels of interest - people have a way of taking what they can use from a writeup:

1. casual visitors who are interested in folksy lore
2. People like me who want to know who lived where
3. my educated friends who care about architectural history

I have kept the streets separate so that if desired, they can be rearranged from an alphabetical listing to a neighborhood grouping. Since no one can walk the whole town, perhaps it would be good to print separate pamphlets for different neighborhoods. In this way, they could be sold less expensively: Wesco Acre Lots, Fish Lots etc. with a short prefatory explanation of the history of each one.

I will keep on working and finish the other half. When you have had a chance to look it over and think about the overall content and format, you can either write or hold it until I return in September for discussion and revision.

There is a heavy emphasis on maritime activities perhaps because of Stackpole's extensive writings. Is that what we want? Perhaps there are other aspects of island life which could be pointed up. Also in passing, judging by the number of houses which are thought to have been brought in from old Sherburne (or Sherborn?), it must have been a city the size of Manhattan.

I hope you are having a nice summer. If the week of July 11th is an example of Nantucket summers, everyone will have to take a rest cure in the fall. We had a great time that week but would not be able to maintain that kind of pace.

Isn't it interesting that you live in William (C.?) Folger's house? He figures substantially in my work on John Jackson and perhaps has been maligned as a genealogist.

Sincerely,

Jean

Dear Bob,

I am enclosing the balance of Marie Coffin's files as transcribed with some minor revisions and abbreviations. I will be pleased to have your comments and suggestions for such further changes which seem desirable.

The typewriter ribbon is somewhat better than the other one which I discarded and replaced, even though it too smudges pretty badly. It may be the paper I use because I have to erase quite a lot.

I expect to return to Nantucket about the eighth of September so you can decide whether you wish to hold the manuscript or return it, depending upon the amount of discussion required.

Hope you were not all blown away by Belle! I'd miss everybody.

Sincerely,

ACADEMY LANE

3 ACADEMY LANE

Built in 1760 by one of the descendants of an original proprietor, Richard Gardner, this house was known as the Captain Roland Gardner House.

In plan it is similar to the earlier two-story lean-to but the rear rises to two full stories. A central chimney contains six fireplaces.

The front entry has been enlarged by the addition of a vestibule and a new wing has been added at the west end.

ACADEMY HILL

Known as the Reuben R. Bunker House, this dwelling was built c. 1806 or soon after the Revolution. Its design is a typical plan of the period with rooms clustered around the central chimney with six fireplaces.

The portico over the entrance door is known as an open pediment since it rests on slender pillars and is quite rare on Nantucket. The entrance has a simple fanlight over the door with a classical front porch in Federal style added about 1820. The porch is a distinctive architectural feature and drawings of it are on file in the records of The Society for Preservation of New England Antiquities. There is a walk on the roof.

Reuben R. Bunker was a whaling captain and an important man in the town. Some time prior to 1812, Reuben Bunker was master of the ship BRUTUS, one of those which went with William Rotch and forty other vessels to conduct whale fishery from Dunkirk, France.

5 ASH STREET

The front part of this dwelling was built as a lean-to "half house" facing south about 1730.

The rear part was raised to two full stories in the late eighteenth century and a wing attached at the rear. The doorway has been moved to the west side and a later enclosed porch added.

During the Great Fire of 1846, this house miraculously escaped destruction as houses close to it on the edge of the conflagation were were destroyed.

10 ASH STREET

This lean-to "half house" faces south. The original east section reputedly was brought from Sherburne in the second quarter of the eighteenth century and later enlarged to a full house.

During the nineteenth century it was made into a duplex for Alexander (east side) and George (west side) Folger.

3 BEAR STREET

From its construction, it is believed that this house was built around 1720 and moved to its present location in the Eighteenth Fish Lot Share c. 1756 by Tristram Bunker. A wing was added about 1840.

The Eighteenth Fish Lot Share was assigned to the Bunker family in 1717 and is located in what was then known as Newtown, near the Newtown Gate. This Gate was erected near the present First Milestone as a barrier to keep the sheep which roamed the island from entering the town.

Tristram Bunker, Captain of THE SCORPION, removed to London soon after 1785 and before the War of 1812 to engage in the whale fishery from that port. From 1818 to 1832, Peter Veeder owned this house and sailed the ship PERU on one of its many whaling voyages.

1 BLOOM STREET

Believed to have been built about 1727, this house retains the simple features of many Nantucket homes: ~~for example~~, planked frame windows, simple doorway, low foundation and stoop. A large kitchen, enclosed porch and roof walk have been added. The gardens are spacious and lovely and a fish pool has been placed on what was once the foundation for a machine shop.

43 CENTRE STREET

This house was built about 1765 for Levi Joy.

46 CENTRE STREET

Built in 1760 for William Brock as a three bayed house, it later was enlarged into a "typical" Nantucket house. In recent years, it has been used as a gift shop.

Here for a number of years lived Captain George Pollard, the master of the ill-fated whaleship ESSEX which was sunk by a sperm whale in the Pacific Ocean. Captain Pollard was one of five who survived ninety days in an open boat. He went to sea again but his ship TWO BROTHERS was wrecked on a reef north of the Hawaiian Islands.

Herman Melville used the story of the ESSEX in his great American classic, MOBY DICK. He visited Nantucket in 1852, met Captain Pollard and immortalized him in his poem, CLAREL.

49 CENTRE STREET

In 1922, Henry Barnard Worth wrote: "At the northeast corner of Centre Street and Church is a two story house with center chimney built about 1790 by Francis Joy".

At that time, the street now known as Step Lane was called Church Street. It was originally named Step Lane but was changed several times.

There is a possibility that at least part of this house may have been moved from Sherburne.

51 CENTRE STREET

This "three decker" dwelling, very unusual for Nantucket, was built

about 1765 by Jethro Hussey for Peter Folger. It was owned and occupied by the Folger family until 1955. At some time prior to 1815, Uriah Folger changed the flat roof to the present one and possibly placed the roof walk on the house at the same time.

Peter Folger was known as the fourth Peter. His ancestor, the first Peter, was one of the first settlers who came to live on the island in 1663. He held many important positions and his daughter, Abiah, the only child of his who was born on Nantucket, became the mother of Benjamin Franklin.

On the site of the present house, William Gayer built his early colonial house in 1684. That house was taken down and part of it used to build what is now The Overlook Hotel on Step Lane.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Old North Vestry, originally known as the North Shore Meeting House, was built c. 1725 at the south end of Capaum Pond, moved to Beacon Hill in 1765, re-erected on the site of the present First Congregational Church and removed to its current location in 1834 to make room for the new and present large meeting house erected that year.

It is the oldest existing building on Nantucket which was built for worship and one of the oldest church buildings in America still in use.

There is a possibility that the building may have been built even earlier as records of the Massachusetts Congregational Society state that about 1711, four Congregational Churches were erected in the state, one of which was in Nantucket.

52 CENTRE STREET

This house is one of the most characteristic of the early eighteenth century shipmasters' houses and is an example of a simple, central chimney, frame gable with lean-to. It was built in 1756 by Joshua and Beuhlah (Gardner) Coffin. The present owner is the great-great granddaughter of Joshua Coffin, first owner.

The original part of the house was built at Sherburne, the site of the first town, and moved to its present location in 1756 when the adjoining ell and woodshed were added. Originally, as now, the house was a square, two and a half story gabled roof structure. Prior to the Revolution, a section was taken out of the front of the chimney to allow for a capacious storeroom which Captain Coffin designed as a concealed safe deposit for his valuables in the event of a British raid on the island. This secret room has been generally referred to as the "secret chamber" or the "cellar in the attic".

Captain Henry F. Coffin, grandson of the first owner, shipped on the whaleship PLOUGHBOY at the age of thirteen for a five year cruise. He bore a mark of this voyage to his dying day: the jaws of a whale crushed the whale boat in which he was serving and the splintered wood wounded and scarred his leg.

55 CENTRE STREET

This house has a five bayed facade with center door and transom. The roof walk is modern. It is surmised that it may have been built by Samuel Stubbs about 1799. Scraps of paper from an old copybook bearing the name of his son, William, and the date of 1799 were found between the old finish floor boards and the rough flooring below when when repairs were being made a few years ago.

59 CENTRE STREET

This house is believed to have been built in 1731. It is similar in style to the one next to it at 57 Centre Street. At the turn of the century, it had a parapet. There is now a modern porch on the front of the house. There is a St. Helena willow stump in the front yard.

66 CENTRE STREET

Anchor Inn, as this house is known, was built about 1806 by Captain Archaelus Hammond soon after he bought the land from Richard Gardner.

Captain Hammond was a successful whaleship master. According to

Edouard A. Stackpole, "~~In the ancient graveyard known as Old North is the burial place of Captain Archaelus Hammond~~ he was, the first man to strike and kill a sperm whale in the Pacific Ocean". This took place on the English whaleship EMELIA, owned by the London firm of Enderby and Sons on which he was serving as mate. He later was master of the brig CHARLOTTE and the CYRUS, one of the Rotch ships from Nantucket utilizing Dunkirk registry.

A later owner of the property was Reuben Fosdick, a retired master mariner.

3 CHARTER STREET

This house, located in the twenty-second Fish Lot Share, was built between 1764 and 1780 by Benjamin Coffin (1705-1780) who was known as The Schoolmaster for forty years. The land had been set off to his father, Nathaniel, who was a sea captain and when his mother died in 1764, she left it to him. A later owner was Isaac Coffin, Judge of Probate, and son of Benjamin.

6 CHESTER STREET

The rear wing of this structure apparently was an early two story dwelling. It is now a slightly modified late eighteenth century "typical" Nantucket house.

7 CHERRY STREET

This was one of the first dwellings built between 1772 and 1776 in the area then referred to as the New Town. It was built by Benjamin Coffin, schoolmaster for forty-six years, the son of Nathaniel and Damaris (Gayer) Coffin and descended through James, a son of Tristram Coffin who emigrated from Devonshire, England.

The house bears resemblance to earlier half houses found in Nantucket in the first half of the eighteenth century but the presence a full cellar and the late 1772-1776 date refute the theory of this having been a half house. It has a full rubblestone masonry foundation with a cellar fireplace and beehive oven.

Benjamin Coffin was an outstanding schoolmaster. By 1772 his home near the schoolhouse on Pleasant Street had become inadequate for his family consisting of his second wife, Deborah, and a new family of children. At the suggestion of his son, Micajah, Benjamin built the new home on Cherry Street at a time when the guns of the Revolution began to sound.

Charles Grant, owner from 1853-1921 was a master mariner. His whaling voyages to the Pacific Ocean involved the ships: WALTER SCOTT, POTOMAC and MOHAWK.

There is something terribly wrong here -
See 3 Charter Street. History by Marsha Foden
Marie's writeup was lifted from
The Coffin Saga by Dr. William Gardner
Could it be the son Benjamin?
9-26-1732 to 12-9-1789

CLIFF ROAD

2 CLIFF ROAD

3 CLIFF ROAD

6 CLIFF ROAD

Built in 1795 for Isaiah Folger, this house has been extensively altered and enlarged during the mid nineteenth century when it was given a center hallway and end chimneys. The present doorway and fenestration are modern.

12 CLIFF ROAD

This dwelling was built in 1749 as a lean-to half house. A later addition was built on the north side. Hezekiah Pinkham, great great-grandfather of the present owner, bought it from Benjamin Worth in 1810 and since then has remained in the family for five generations.

One of Hezekiah Pinkham's children, Sarah, lived in the house with her daughter, Rebecca, while her husband, Elisha Bunker, was at sea whaling. He was lost off Peru in 1841 at the age of 33.

16 CLIFF ROAD

Owen Folger, son Peter Folger Third, maried Eunice Smith in 1757 and this house was built for them about that time. Tragedy struck when their two sons were lost at sea near Delagoa Bay on the southeast coast of Africa, a new whaling area (1785) after the Revolution.

20 CLIFF ROAD

Built in the mid-1700s, this lean-to house faces south. It has a ridge chimney and a three bayed facade. The west side has been extended for a larger stairhall and additions have been made at the rear.

2 COPPER LANE

Francis James built this lean-to house in 1796 and sold it a year later to Gideon Randall. It changed hands many times after that until purchased by the well known historian, Grace Brown Gardner in 1905.

Until the turn of the century, around 1800, Copper Lane had been known as Silver Street.

3 DARLING STREET

The house at 3 Darling Street was purchased in 1931 by the present owner from the Laban Paddock family estate.

Laban Paddock bought the land in 1779 and built the house soon afterward. This date is confirmed by the construction of the house with its inside partitions constructed with planks standing on end and split lath nailed on to hold the plaster. There are seven fireplaces and the windows are constructed with planked frames.

In nearly two hundred years, it has been owned by only two families.

8 DARLING STREET

The house at Darling Street was built about 1750 and is believed to have been a Coffin family home. It is a three bayed dwelling which has been considerably changed. Owner of the property at one time was Captain James H. Barnard who was lost at sea on his passage from Batavia to Salem in 1836.

Darling Street was named for a John Darling who came from Long Island and married Sarah Folger.

10 FAIR STREET

Known as The Parsonage, this dwelling is the parsonage of the Unitarian-Universalist Church and was constructed from two small buildings. The front part was built in 1790 for Reuben and Deborah Clark by Captain George Lawrence on land purchased from the Pinkham family. The owner in 1795 was Elisha Folger who paid "300 Spanish milled dollars" for it. In 1804, he bought additional land and joined a small building to the original one at the back.

About 1888, the Ladies' Sewing Society of the Second Congregational Meeting House Society raised enough funds to purchase the property which they held until 1904 when they gave it to the church for use as a parsonage.

FAIR STREET

15 FAIR STREET

Built in the late eighteenth century for Thomas Coffin II, this house was remadeled in the midnineteenth century. Captain Thomas Coffin's talented yound daughter, Lucretia, spent her youthful days here before she moved to Dutchess County to be married to the Quaker teacher, James Mott, and become the famous Lucretia Mott.

In the Thomas Coffin House lived the last of the Nantucket whaling masters, Captain Thaddeus Defriez, who for many years after retiring, was judge of the local Probate Court.

22 FAIR STREET

This is a late eighteenth century type of dwelling with a five bayed facade, ridge chimney, pilastered center door with transom and wood stoop.

24 FAIR STREET

When the Fish Lots were laid out in 1717, this property was in Share Number 5 which came to Tristram Coffin's great grandsons, Daniel and Zephaniah Coffin.

Daniel Coffin built the north section of the present house sometime before 1751 and in 1765, his daughter, Judith Coffin, spinster, sold it to her brother-in-law, Jonathan Gorham Fitch. There were several transfers of the property after that, one of the owners occupying it for fifty years when it was known as the Aaron Coffin Homestead.

In one of the old deeds, mention is carefully made of the granted privilege to use the David Ray pump and well which six men of the neighborhood had lately dug and completed --- "at proper cost and charges".

The house has been considerably changed and enlarged.

25 FAIR STREET

Built for Gershorn Drew soon after his marriage to Abigail

Gardner in 1795, this two and a half story clapboard front house has a later Greek Revival doorway with side lights.

29 FAIR STREET

The Woodbox, as this dwelling is now known, is made up of two attached houses. The east part was built about 1740 or possibly earlier as a lean-to half house with the west half added as a full two stories half house at which time, the rear of the east part was raised to match. The house was formerly known as the George Bunker house for its first owner.

33 FAIR STREET

This late eighteenth century dwelling was built or assembled for James Cartwright. The original section has two south bays; two on the north end were added. The house has two ridge chimneys. In 1832, Benjamin Folger was the owner of the property.

34 FAIR STREET

It is the belief of some historians that this four bayed facade house with new ridge chimney may have been built as early as 1734.

54 FAIR STREET

Little is known about the history of this house although it is apparent that it was constructed about 1800. It is a typical three bayed facade house with new ridge chimney and later protruding bay window.

10 GARDNER STREET

The basic structure of this house was built by Richard Macy near Crooked Lane on Duke Street, one of the early roads leading from the original location of the town eastward to the Great Harbor.

In 1771, it was sold by Jonathan Coleman to his son-in-law, Samuel Riddell and moved to its present site at the time whaling was superceding farming. Before it was moved, the house probably rested on a low stone foundation but in its new location, it was placed high off the ground, making it possible to have a summer kitchen with fireplace and cooking oven in the basement.

The additions on the side and a new kitchen are of a later date.

13 GARDNER STREET

Built about 1800, this house was moved from Ray's Court to its present location and placed on a high foundation. It was once the home of a clipper shipmaster, Captain William Cartwright, who was lost when the HOUQUA disappeared during a voyage from Japan to New York in 1864. Descendants of Captain Cartwright still own the house.

19 GARDNER STREET

The main portion of this house was built about 1776 by Josiah Gardner. It originally faced Liberty Street with the door on that side. Considerable remodeling has been done over the years.

Josiah Gardner was lost at sea and the next owner was Susanna C. Barnard,"trader", which indicates that she had a shop. Charles C. Myrick next owned the property and in 1866, sold it to Benjamin M. Hussey who used the southwest room as a store.

6 GULL ISLAND LANE

A narrow lane runs from the intersection of Centre and West Chester Streets to Gull Island, a piece of land surrounded by a marsh and what was once the Lily Pond where the first mill on Nantucket was built in 1666. Built as a mill to grind corn, it was soon converted to a fulling mill and a few years later, a tide grist mill was established nearby.

The dwelling at 6 Gull Island Lane was built between 1785 and 1795 as a dower house for the daughter of Thomas Gardner who built the original house im this section on the ridge in 1739. A kitchen was added about 1810 and a living room built on in 1940.

HAWTHORNE LANE

The Elihu Coeman Homestead is located in the section known as Mill Brook Country. It is the only house still standing on the open moors on the site of the old settlement of Sherburne. Elihu Coleman, a carpenter and builder, built the home in 1722 while still in his early twenties. The house is of the lean-to type but unlike earlier houses, it has two stories on the front which faces south, with the north roof sloping to one story in the rear.

Little has been changed structurally during more than 250 years and the chimney bricks, laid with island clay and moistened with seashells, are still intact. It was in front of the great keeping room fireplace that Elihu Coleman, minister of the Society of Friends, wrote one of the first protests by a Quaker in New England "Against that Anti-Christian Practice of Making Slaves of Men". It was published in 1730.

Unfortunately, it is not possible for the house and grounds to be open to the public.

9 HOWARD STREET

Built some time before 1750, this house was moved to its present site in 1790 for Zacheus Macy II. It faces south on what was formerly Macy Court, now Howard Street, and is the oldest house on the street. It has a later addition with shed roof and two story wing on the west flank. In 1866, the north roof was raised making the north side of the house a full two stories. There is a Greek Revival doorway at the northeast corner.

7 HUSSEY STREET

11 HUSSEY STREET

Known in recent years as the Joseph A. Sylvaro Homestead, the house at 11 Hussey Street was built soon after 1750 when William Hussey, "yeoman", began purchasing land in that section called Wesco Acre Lots. It appears to have built as a two bay half house which is the west section of the present building, the east section having been added later on a stone basement.

William Hussey died in 1805, leaving the house to his daughter, Anna Hussey, who that same year married Peter Barney. After Anna's death a few years later, the widower sold it to Nathaniel Ray who in turn, left it to his widow, Merab Ray. It was later owned by Peleg Macy, Junior, Peter C. Myrick and others until in 1855, Joseph A. Sylvaro bought the house and his family lived there for over fifty years.

21 HUSSEY STREET

Erected probably at its present location about 1758 by Timothy Barnard, father of Libni Barnard who left it to his widow, Mary Barnard, this house has some indications of belonging to an earlier style of construction. It may been removed from some other location, perhaps old Sherburne. It is one of these changed dwellings in the neighborhood and has been in the same family for well over two hundred years.

About 1758, Hussey Street was formed by joining Bunker's and Hussey's Court.

25 HUSSEY STREET

At the western end of Hussey Street where the thoroughfare curves is the Caleb Gardner House built by him in 1733 on land he inherited from Caleb Bunker and owned by his heirs for a century and a half thereafter. The structure has two front doors for at one time, it was a double house. Originally, it was a one room house in width with a chimney at the end. Additions have been made at the rear and west without destrying the simple lines of its original dimensions. In 1940, restoration was carefully made by Dr. Joseph W. Cochran, its owner at that time.

The century old wistaria vine across the front of the house attracts much attention each year when in full bloom.

30 HUSSEY STREET

Built in 1772, this house is one of the few remaining gambrel roof houses built on the island. It is unusual in that the gambrel roof is on the front only and is combined with an ordinary peak roof at the rear.

Built by Grindell Gardner, it was purchased by Absalom Coffin in 1802. Emmaline Coffin inherited it from her father and in turn, sold it Henry Gardner Brown in 1868. For over 100 years, it has belonged to the Brown family and its heirs. During the 1890's, small windows were added on the front roof and the large central chimney was removed to make way for a narrow front stairs. The several fireplaces were closed at the time. However, modernization has in no way changed the lines of the original construction.

17 INDIA STREET

This dwelling house, now owned and operated by The Hospital Thrift Shop, was built by Obadiah Wood. A few years previously, Wood had bought the "land together with the tanning sheds thereon" and carried on the tanning business while he built his home.

Obadiah Wood was the son-in-law of Dr. Benjamin Tupper, island physician and staunch Revolutionary Tory. Stephen West, master mariner, owned the house from 1826 to 1840 and Augustus C. Morse, from 1840 to 1895.

18 INDIA STREET

The gambrel roof house at 18 India Street was built about 1767 by Silas Paddock, shipmaster. He removed to Halifax during the Revolution. William Barnard owned it from 1791 to 1829 when he sold it to Captain Chase who later was lost at sea. The house was then sold at auction and returned to the Barnard family and remained in that family for generations.

19 INDIA STREET

The homestead of Zaccheus Hussey was built about 1809 in this area which was originally known as the Third Squadron of Wesko Acre Lots at the place commonly known as Miccah's Pond. He lived in this house until his death after which, it was owned and occupied in turn, by his widow, their children and grandchildren. The house which has a center doorway in Federal style with transom and sidelights has been well restored with little structural change. The space between the back of the house and Hussey Street was recently converted into an attractive garden.

20 INDIA STREET

The land where this house stands was conveyed by Benjamin Fosdick to Jonathan Rathborn in 1797 and it is believed that the house was built about 1799. Captain Robert Inott purchased the property in 1812 where he lived until his death. Captain Inott had been master of the ship,

SAMUEL, a whaleship which was condemned at Rio de Janeiro in 1822 and her cargo of sperm oil shipped home.

21 INDIA STREET

This typical Nantucket house was built soon after 1800 by John Howland Swain for his bride, Prudence Simmons Swain. Mr. Swain was a highly skilled "blockmaker" and his specialty was rigging whaleships. He died in 1806 at the age of 32 and the house was purchased a few years later by Captain Obed Alley.

Captain Alley was Master of the whaleship FRANCES of New Bedford, a ship owned by William Rotch and Company. Between 1827 and 1835, he made three voyages on the FRANCES but died at Paita on the northern coast of Peru in 1835.

Among the exterior architectural details of note are the later pilastered Greek Revival doorway and the handcarved pineapples on the posts of the front steps.

23 INDIA STREET

Around 1795, John and Perez Jenkins, builders, bought land in the Third Squadron of Wesco Acre Lots for 27 pounds, 4 shillings and 6 pence where they built the house which was sold in 1801 to Captain Reuben Baxter. There is the possibility that it may have been constructed from a building brought from Sherburne. Originally, there was a recessed doorway on India Street and the house was square with the kitchen in the main house.

Captain Baxter was the first of four ship captains to own the property. He married Love Briggs in 1796 and was master of the ship BELVEDERE and made two trips to the Patagonia whaling grounds for elephant oil. The second captain to own the house was Alexander D. Bunker, master of the ships BROTHERS, ONTARIO, ZONE, CLARKSON and PANAMA, all making successful voyages out of Nantucket between 1817 and 1836. He sold the home in 1833 to Captain Alexander Russell, another successful whaleship captain who, however,

had to leave his ship at Wahoo in the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) where he died of consumption. The next owner was Captain Samuel C. Wyer who made several voyages before buying it in 1855.

27 INDIA STREET

The Robert Folger House was built soon after 1794 when Robert Folger, mariner, bought land from George Lawrence for sixty pounds. The property remained in the family for 77 years.

The construction is typical of late 18th century Nantucket. Henry B. Worth in EARLY HOUSES stated: "Near the opening of the 19th century, a modification of the lean-to style came into general use on the Island and contained all the advantages of the ancient type and was more convenient. Among these are several on India Street. This style consists of a two story house with center or end chimney and a two story ell in the rear. From 1795 to 1820, most of the large houses were of this pattern."

Various changes have been made to meet the needs of successive owners but have been in keeping with the original architecture. The house has been beautifully restored.

33 INDIA STREET

The John Russell or Major Brock (a later occupant) House was probably built about 1785 for John Russell whose father, Daniel, had moved here from Rhode Island and married Deborah Macy. John Russell married Ruth Starbuck, daughter of Nathaniel Starbuck Jr. and Dinah (Coffin). The Russells and Starbucks built homes on joint land at this location. John Russell's descendants owned this property until 1955.

This is a typical Nantucket house with an exceptionally wide front.

35 INDIA STREET

In 1788, Joseph Harris bought land and dwelling house which George Lawrence built . It is presumed that the house was new at that time as Lawrence, a retired mariner and housewright, was building houses in the area for immediate sale. It was built as a simple four bay central

chimney house and reflects the Quaker influence.

In 1795, it was purchased by the widow of Captain David Swain, a whaling captain. The property remained in the Swain family until 1880.

41 INDIA STREET

In 1734, Abel Gardner bought land in the Wesco Acre Lots from Zacheus Folger and again in1741, from John Swain. In 1767, he gave his daughter, Eunice, and her her husband, Caleb Bunker, married in 1755, the land on which "their house now stands" and in which they were living. The house remained in that family until 1864.

Some of the building materials show a greater age than the construction and floor plan would indicate, thus suggesting that timbers from an older dwelling perhaps brought from Sherburne, were used in its construction. Evidence of its ship's cabin construction is visible in the living room and kitchen.

45 INDIA STREET

The land on which this house stands was originally part of The Crooked Record farmland of Richard Gardner.

3 JOY STREET

Inscribed 1799, this one and three-quarter story house with ridge chimney is located on Joy Street, named for Captain Reuben Joy. He sailed on the MINERVA, the first Salem ship to circumnavigate the globe.

EATON'S
CORRASABLE
BOND
USA
BERKSHIRE
COTTON FIBER CONTENT

1 LIBERTY STREET

This property was the dwelling house of Benjamin Barney who came to Nantucket from Newport, Rhode Island and married Lydia Starbuck, daughter of Jethro Starbuck, in 1722.

Jethro Starbuck owned this section on the north side of Liberty Street, having had it assigned to him by the Proprietors in 1720. When his daughter, Lydia, married Barney, he deeded the land to them and their home was built there some time before 1726. Liberty Street is one of the oldest streets in the town and the house is one of the earliest built in Wesco after the location of the town was moved from Capaum in 1720.

Elizabeth, their daughter, was married to William Rotch who became one of the outstanding whaling merchants in the international world.

5 LIBERTY STREET

This house was built by Barnabas Pinkham in 1748. At the age of 39, Paul West, master mariner, bought the house after a highly successful career as a whaler and came from the sea to spend the next fifty years in retirement. He had begunas a ship's boy at age 13 on William Rotch's whaleship MARIA. In 1803, he was master of the whaleship CYRUS, one of Rotch's ships out of Dunkirk which was captured by the British and taken to London. He also captained the CHARLTON. While in Dunkirk, Captain West married Phoebe Hussey, daughter of Captain Benjamin Hussey.

The traditional lean-to house with rear wall later raised to two full stories has a great central chimney, roof walk and brownstone step with iron scraper for muddy boots.

12 LIBERTY STREET

The Nathaniel Macy House is owned by The Nantucket Historical Association and is open to visitors. First occupied in 1741 by Nathaniel Macy, it is one of Nantucket's oldest houses and was probably built by his father, Thomas Macy, who owned the land as early as 1723 and was a grandson of one of the original proprietors. Since it does not face south as was

customary for lean-to houses, the northern part of the structure may have been moved from the Capaum Pond area.

It can be described as a full house with two windows on either side of a center door. When it was restored in the 1930's, the great fireplaces, original beams and iron cranes were found behind plastered walls in an excellent state of preservation. Wide floor boards, simple paneling, massive beams and corner posts are an example of the fine construction of that period.

15 LIBERTY STREET

Jethro Starbuck, grandson of Edward Starbuck, one of the first settlers of Nantucket, owned a section of land on the north side of Liberty Street in 1725 which included this property. He deeded various pieces of this land to his several children and about 1740, his sons, Thomas and William, moved and rebuilt this lean-to on the present site. In order to accommodate the space, the east side had be reduced three feet, leaving one pair of windows nearly at the corner of the new left flank. Interior changes were made to adjust to the loss of space.

In 1743, William and Thomas conveyed the property to their sister, Jemima, who was the wife of Silvanus Allen. Soon afterward, the Allens moved to Fairhaven and ownership of the house changed hands many times. It was nicely restored in 1933.

17 LIBERTY STREET

The land belonging to this property was originally a part of the section assigned to Jethro Starbuck in 1720. The land was passed from Thomas Starbuck son of Jethro, to his son, Silvanus, who built the house about 1754. During the Revolution, Silvanus was prominent on the Nantucket Board of Selectmen. He an his wife, Mary (Howes) spent the rest of their lives in this house until at age 83, in 1810, Silvanus deeded the property to his son, David, who had returned from Dunkirk where he had spent some years with William Rotch's whaling fleet. Under his command, the MARY was one

of the first two vessels to be fitted out from that French port and in 1790, he took the HARMONY on another successful whaling voyage. In 1814 after he had returned to Nantucket, Starbuck became captain of the sloop HAWK and was sent to meet the commander of the British North American Naval Forces in an effort to obtain permission to bring provisions from the Mainland to relieve the suffering caused by the War.

22 LIBERTY STREET

Built in the late 1700's, this two and a half story house has a clapboarded, five bayed facade and ridge chimney. The bay window was added much later.

27 and 29 LIBERTY STREET

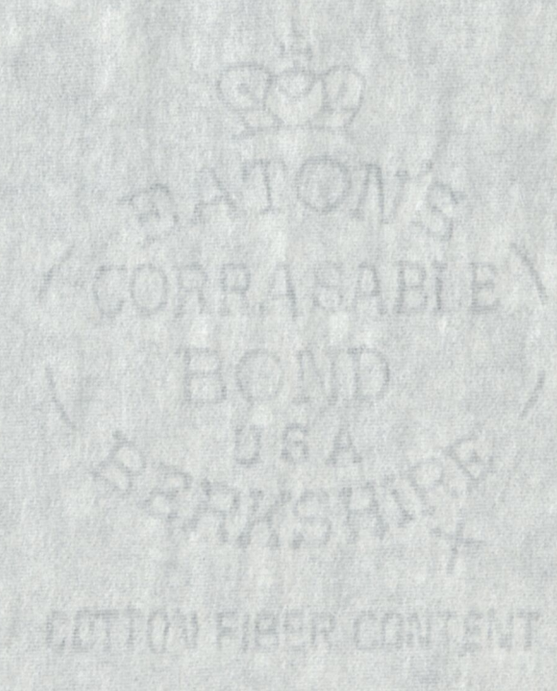
Benjamin Fosdick built this lean-to house in 1745. In 1801, it was divided into two houses for his sons; the west half to Benjamin II and the east, to Reuben. In the eastern half at one time lived Captain Robert Calder who served his country in both the Revolution and War of 1812. He was a crew member of the ALLIANCE, a vessel in the fleet of John Paul Jones, and subsequently, commanded many different ships in the whaling and merchant service.

Captain Sylvester Hodges, who lived in the western side of this dwelling at one time, sailed to the Antarctic and hunted seals in the South Shetland Islands.

31 LIBERTY STREET

This house was built about 1740 has a lean-to half house. The rear has been heightened and a modern wing added on the west end. It was once the home of Captain Alexander Macy (1792-1880) who, on his voyage with Captain James Bunker in the CHILI, was made a harpooner. Captured by the British in the War of 1812, he was exchanged and then went privateering in the SPARTAN, out of New York. He was one of the survivors of the wreck of the GENERAL LINCOLN in 1818. In command of the COLUMBUS, he sailed under the French flag. After his return, he resumed whaling in the PALLADIUM, out of

Boston and took the first printing press to the Hawaiian Islands in 1821. His last voyage was in the MARIA, out of Nantucket in 1832 and upon retiring from the sea at the age of forty, bought a farm at Polpis.



22 LILY STREET

A typical Nantucket house built no later than 1795 and possibly earlier, this house has a ridge chimney, four bayed facade and pilastered doorway with modern transom. Henry C. Bunker, its owner who was a mariner, removed to Falmouth in 1832 and sold it to George Haden, a cooper, who sold it to another mariner, William M. Dawson, a few years later. He occupied it until 1850 when he moved with other Nantucket whalers to Dunkirk and sold the house to Charles K. Whitman, a lawyer.

31 LILY STREET

From its construction, it would appear that this two and a half story integral lean-to was built between 1750 and 1760. Built by Benjamin Chase, it was moved to its present site from Fair Street in 1810. Records show that James F. Chase bought from Jonathan J. Barney for $240 "a certain piece of land on the east side of Lily Street containing 16 rods". James F. Chase is mentioned in old deeds as being a rigger of whaleships.

The Chase family owned and occupied the house for 100 years. From them, it passed to Sarah H. Gardiner and thence to Everett Jerome, a member of the illustrious Jerome family, to which Winston Churchill's mother, Jenny, belonged. The present owners bought the place from them.

The original Nantucket made tiles are still in the dining room fireplace and the borning room adjacent to it is intact.

PACIFIC CLUB or ROTCH MARKET

The Pacific Club was erected in 1772 by William Rotch, an enterprising whale oil merchant, for a warehouse and business office. The bricks were imported from Europe.

The interior was gutted during the Great Fire of 1846 but it was immediately rebuilt and during its reconstruction, the old gambrel roof of two slopes was changed to its present form.

The building was purchased in 1831 by the Commercial Insurance Company which occupied it until sold to the Pacific Club in 1861. At one time, the United States Customs House was quartered in the building as well as the National Weather Bureau.

An inscription on the side of the building gives the names of three Rotch owned whalers which sailed into Boston Harbor in 1773, carrying cargoes of tea for London's East India Company. On the night of December 16th, a party of men made history when they boarded the ships, disguised as Indians, and tossed the tea overboard, a feat now known as The Boston Tea Party. It was in the rooms of the Pacific Club that the charter for the three ship was drawn up.

In 1783, the ship BEDFORD cleared from this building with a whale oil cargo before sailing to London where she displayed the first American flag to be flown in the Thames, anchoring just below the Tower of London.

The Pacific Club itself was formed in 1854 by 24 men, of whom 22 were masters of ships formerly engaged in the whaling trade in the Pacific. Each member owned a one twenty-fourth share. They met in the Captain's Room on the first floor where it soon became a center of world whaling discussion and news discussion, better known as gamming.

65 MAIN STREET

This structure, known as the Old Masonic Lodge Building, was erected in 1802 on land which the Union Lodge of Nantucket bought from William Rotch. The original structure was described by the Reverend James Freeman, a visitor to the island in 1807, as "an elegant building with Ionic pilasters in front". It had two stories, was clapboarded with hip roof, five bayed facade with colossal order Roman Ionic pilasters supporting archivolts and keystones. During the 1830's, the building was sold when the Lodge moved to other quarters and the first story was remodeled into a Greek Revival store front with short pilasters and entablature.

In 1872, in order to make space for the erection of the Captain David Yhain house, which in turn was razed in1962, the westerly two bays were demolished and the former pilaster top at west end was inserted between two upper windows in from the east end.

Recently, the building was purchased and completely renovated in excellent taste by the Pacific National Bank for use by their Trust Department, Allan R. Congdon, architect.

81 MAIN STREET

This house was originally a lean-to structure before it was moved in from Sherburne and an ell added in the 1760's. It became the home of Captain Christopher Burdick when he married his brother Henry's widow, Lydia (Easton) in 1819.

In 1821, while on a sealing voyage in the schooner HUNTRESS, Captain Burdick sighted and was the first to recognize as a continent the land now known as Antarctica. His recently discovered logbook describes this important discovery.

After Captain Burdick's death in 1839, the house was owned by James Morse, a dry goods merchant from Boston who moved here about that time. His daughter, Ellen, married Burdick's son and the house

continued to be occupied by descendants of the Burdick family for well over a century.

82 MAIN STREET

This house was built early in the nineteenth century in Federal style. In 1890, the southwest wing and a roof walk were added.

85 MAIN STREET

The easterly half of this house was built about 1724 by Jabez Bunker. Successive ownerships followed until Prince Gardner acquired it in 1795 when he enlarged it by adding the westerly side, thus making the chimney the center of the house. Prince Gardner's grandson, Robert F. Gardner, inherited the property in 1865. During his ownership, he had a cellar dug under the house and raised the first floor to a higher stud.

It is known as the Robert F. Gardner house and is now a two and a half story shingle, five bayed building with two ridge chimneys and pilastered Greek Rival doorway with sidelights.

89 MAIN STREET

Early known as the Thaddeus Coffin house, it was built in the 1740s as a small house with two rooms and a kitchen on the first floor, three bedrooms upstairs, attic and entrance at the west side. Although it probably was originally a lean-to, in 1875, it was given two full stories, front and rear, several additions with no attempt made to unify old and new roofs.

For many years before his death in 1833, it was the home of Silvanus Macy who, with his brother, Obed Macy, Island historian, carried on an extensive trade in whale oil and other commodities.

Silvanus Macy's grandson, Rowland Hussey Macy, was the founder of the New York store, R.H. Macy. As a youth, Rowland went to sea on the whaleship EMILY MORGAN and it is claimed that as was the custom, he had himself tattooed on the island of Pernambuco, the first foreign soil on which he stepped. The red star tattooed on the back of his hand became the trademark of Macy's in New York some twenty years later.

99 MAIN STREET

The eastern part of this house was built by Valentine Swain in 1770 as a small three bayed house to which was added the western section in 1830 after it had been acquired two years earlier by Thomas and Eunice Macy. Thomas Macy, a prominent man in town affairs, was the son of Obed Macy, Island historian, and married the daughter of Zenas Coffin, a whale oil merchant and one of the wealthiest men in the state.

The house is symbolic of many of the early mansions built by whale oil merchants and is one of fine proportions with center doorway and blind fan.

100 MAIN STREET

About 1800, two houses were joined here, the section at the rear having been built at some other location prior to 1775. About 1840, it was remodeled for William Hadwen before he built 96 Main Street. For many years, it was also the home of Captain Joseph Mitchell II, a whaling master who went to California in the Gold Rush days of 1849. He returned later and became president of The Pacific Bank.

102 MAIN STREET

Built in the late eighteenth century, this house has undergone such extensive alterations that its true age is shown only in points of construction. The heavy Greek Revival doorway was added in the 1830s when many older houses adapted to the new style by this one change.

It is believed that the house was built by Jesse Coffin but in the early 1800s, it was owned by Captain James Bunker who in 1816, commanded the whaleship TARQUIN which went to the aid of the SACRAMENTO, a disabled Portuguese frigate. He and his crew were rewarded but not until 35 years later. Captain Bunker also sailed as master of the ships CHILI and SPERMO out of Nantucket.

105 MAIN STREET

Christopher Starbuck built his home here when Gardner Street was laid out as it faces Main Street at a slant, thus conforming to its original street lines. From structural evidence, authorities believe that the eastern section was built about 1690 and moved in from Sherburne. The western end was added some time between 1729 and 1757. When the house was restored in the 1920s, only the sills had to be replaced. Its oak summer beams, girts and corner posts, the huge fireplaces, mantels and wide pine floor boards have all been restored to their original condition.

The Starbuck family occupied the dwelling for many generations.

111 MAIN STREET

"Sevenfires" was built in 1746 by Ebenezer Gardner for his daughter, Margaret, who married Captain Nathan Daggett. In 1787, it became the home of Barnabas Macy, after which his heirs conveyed it to the Society of Friends as a home for aged quakers. In 1882, the Monthly Meeting sold it to private interests and it again became a one family dwelling.

Originally a lean-to, the rear was removed and replaced by a two storied structure brought from Old Sherburne in 1800. As with so many of the more ancient Nantucket houses, it is built close to the street with its garden at the back.

117 MAIN STREET

One of two houses with a Dutch Cap roof remaining on the island, this house was built about 1800 by Edward Cary who came to Nantucket from Charlestown, Massachusetts because he did not want to fight either the Crown or the Colonies at the time of the Revolution. The Carys were one of Nantucket's most illustrious seafaring families. They were among the first of the island captains to sail directly to China and were sealers who traded the valuable skins at Canton for nankeen, tea, spices and other commodities.

118 MAIN STREET

This house was built in 1805 for Captain Thomas Barnard. It is a typical Nantucket house with two and a half stories, ridge chimney and four bayed facade.

120 MAIN STREET

This house was built by Thomas Paddock soon after 1806 when he married Elizabeth Gardner and bought the land. At age 26, he went to the Pacific whaling grounds as Chief Mate on the ship MONTICELLO and in 1811, he became a captain. His first vessel was the PERSEVERANDA which was "captured by an English 74 on Tuckernuck Shoals" as he was returning from a three year cruise to the Pacific. He made later voyages to Brazil in 1817 as master of the ship WILLIAM and in 1819, as captain of the ship SALLY.

126 MAIN STREET

It is believed that this dwelling was built before the Revolution and moved to its present location from Sherburne. In 1858, the house was owned by E. W. Cobb and bought by Arthur B. Collins in 1897 at which time, the kitchen ell was turned to its present location.

127 MAIN STREET

This house was built soon after 1805 by John Folger II. Its construction indicates that a small old building may have been moved here and enlarged. It is located in what is known as the "Crooked Record" land because of the irregular shape of the large section granted to Richard Gardner in 1667. This part of the town was occupied by successive generations of Gardners for many years.

William Folger bought this property in 1813 and was owned and occupied by him and his heirs until 1896.

139 MAIN STREET

This house was built before 1688 for Richard Gardner but had deteriorated greatly during a period when it was used as a carriage house at the rear of the George C. Gardner mansion. In 1927, Miss Gladys Wood rescued the old house, moved it about 500 feet southeast to its present location and carefully restored it with the advice of Alfred Shurrocks, architect for the Society For the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

The original house consisted of a porch with newel stairs and a single great room with bed chamber above it. An extension with shed roof on the east and a rear lean-to were added early in the eighteenth century. During the restoration, an addition was made on the east side and since the original chimney had been removed, it was reproduced as faithfully as possible with a base which is nine feet wide.

153 MAIN STREET

A hand carved sign found in the attic indicates that this house was built in 1689 in old Sherburne. When it was restored in 1946 by Frederick C. Hill, a wellknown architect, it was found that the original house was of lean-to design with a central chimney and fireplaces in each room. About 150 years ago, a two story addition was built and a further extension was put on in 1946.

The house was first owned by Barnabas Gardner and it remained in that family until 1804 when it was sold to Benjamin Whippey. In 1821, the owner was Alfred Folger who secreted two fugitive slaves and their infant daughter when authorities came to the island on information that they had fled to Nantucket from their Virginia plantation owner. The slave hunters left without finding them and the Coopers spent the rest of their lives here.

158 MAIN STREET

Town records state that Prescom Palmer, a Quaker housewright, built this house during 1809-1810 on land purchased from the Folger Farm in 1809.

It is a typical Nantucket house and is described as a one and three-quarter shingle dwelling with two ridge chimneys, a five bayed facade, pilastered Greek Revival doorway with sidelights, six over six paned windows and later dormer windows added about 1886.

10 MARTINS LANE

This house probably was built at this location soon after Martins Lane was opened in 1756 although it is possible that is an earlier house which was moved to this site. It is of lean-to design and it is unusual for a small lean-to to have winder stairs in front of the chimney.

9 MILK STREET

The Prince Gardner House is perhaps the oldest dwelling on Milk Street. It is believed to have been built around 1740 and moved here from Sherburne. For more than a century, it belonged to the Gardner family and at one time, was owned by Captain Charles Gardner who was one of a group of Nantucket shipmasters who engaged in whale fishery from British and French ports after the Revolution.

It is one of the best examples of pre-Revolutionary dwellings on the island and one of the few to be entered at ground level. It has symmetrically designed windows and doors which delight the eye and its large central chimney indicates the sturdiness of its construction.

11 MILK STREET

This house was built by Thomas Starbuck, great gradson of Edward Starbuck, the first of that family to settle on Nantucket in 1659. It was erected about 1761 on the site of the Cornish Farm near Capaum Pond and was moved to its present location in 1790.

The Starbucks family was once concentrated around this area on Milk Street. In the borning room of this house in 1774 was born Joseph Starbuck who became the wealthiest whale oil merchant on Nantucket as well as the most famous island ship builder. It was he who built the well known "Three Bricks" on Main Street for his three sons.

The house contains more of the old characteristics than most ancient Nantucket houses today. The ell was added in 1913.

12 MILK STREET

Typical of those houses built in the 1760s is the home of Tristram Starbuck, sold to him in 1784 by the builder, John Coleman for 120 pounds. It was later owned in turn by three brothers: Paul, Barzillai and Frederick C. Macy.

In 1840, the property was sold to Captain Benjamin Coffin Chase, a master mariner who made two whaling voyages out of Nantucket: in the FALCON in 1823 and the FABIUS in 1833. The FALCON was lost on the island of Ohiteros while the FABIUS made a successful four year voyage and brought back 863 barrels of sperm oil.

Originally a four bayed house, it now has an extension on the south side.

14 MILK STREET

Built in the mideighteenth century, this house was originally a lean-to half house, probally moved here for Matthew Myrick shortly after the Revolution.

21 MILK STREET

The section where this house stands was once called Chicken Hill. It was built some time soon after 1780 for Silas Gardner and it is thought that the frame may have come from Sherburne. It is a transitional design between the lean-to and the "typical" style as in it, the lean-to has been given up and the rear is two stories high. Partitions dividing the borning room, buttery and kitchen have been removed, making one large living room-kitchen across the back. However, the general plan of the interior remains that of the earlier lean-to.

Milk Street was then a main thoroughfare of the town. The Town House was near by on the corner of Milk and Main Streets and there, the town meetings and other important gatherings were held.

25 MILK STREET

Not much is known about this house although it is believed to have been built around 1740. In the 1700s, this location was the home of Jonathan Barnard and later, that of his son, Josiah.

With the passage of time, the level of Milk Street has risen so much

that over fifty years ago, its owner found it expedient to raise the house over three feet. The chimney and fireplaces did not survive that move but since then have been faithfully restored by the present owner. In adapting it to modern living, as few changes as possible have been made in order to retain its original design.

4 MILL STREET

The 1800 House, owned by The Nantucket Historical Association, is open to visitors. As presently restored, it represents in its decoration, furnishings and household utensils a Nantucket dwelling as it would appear in the early nineteenth century. Its construction is of particular interest: its foundation of full stones, its floor beams of roughly hewn tree trunks, oak sills and two oak summer beams, central chimney of six flues, bee-hive oven and pine panellins, some of it 31 inches wide.

5 MILL STREET

Built just before the Revolution by Alexander Ray, this house is a good example of the full two story dwelling which was being built at that time. Corner posts, girts and summer beams are highly visible.

Members of the Ray family lived here for 175 years and included Captain Reuben Ray, master of the ship OBED MITCHELL, Mitchell ray, the basket maker, and his brother, Daniel who was a glazier as well as a basket maker.

8 MILL STREET

Albert Hussey bought land in 1801 and built the house here two years later. The date of its construction was found on an old beam in the attic. A "typical" Nantucket house, it has a shed roof extension on the east side.

11 MILL STREET

From its construction, it is surmised that part of it was built about 1750 and moved from the estate of Richard Macy to become the new home of Job Macy in 1790. The details of its exposed framing, the low ceilings and the position of the back stairs substantiate the age of the house. Although the direction of the ridgepole has been changed, the stairs bear the same relationship to the kitchen fireplace as they do in earlier, leanto houses.

Job Macy's father was violently opposed to son's plans to build a house with two full stories, front and back, a departure from the leanto style. Tradition has it that he vowed never to enter this new type dwelling and never did. The ell in the rear was added in 1832 when Joshua Coffin, master mariner, bought the property.

7 MOOERS LANE

This lean-to house was built for Captain Joseph Chase in 1745. That it is not parallel to the street shows that it was built before the lane existed. The property remained in Chase's family for more than 100 years and has the look of great age with with its cluster chimneys, old roof lines and ells. The section with the shed roof on the western side is of the earlier date with later additions having been placed on on the left flank and rear.

4 NEW DOLLAR LANE

New Dollar Lane received its name from the home Joseph Starbuck built there. His friends declared that he "would never see a new dollar for an old one " because of his lavish plans.

One of Nantucket's most famous ship owners, Starbuck had not yet become as wealthy in 1809 as he would be when he built The Three Bricks in the 1830s. When he married Sally Gardner whose family belonged to the "world's people", he was disowned by the Friends Meeting and it was natural for them to build one of the more elaborate houses which then were becoming fashionable. A wide center hall runs from the entrance to the rear on both floors, the two chimneys are placed so that there is a fireplace in each of the original eight rooms. Although shingles are used on the sides and back of the house, the facade is clapboarded, in keeping with more pretentious homes. Nevertheless, there is still an almost complete lack of detail anywhere on the exterior and the design of the door is identical to the kind found on most earlier houses. The south wing was added in 1938 and is in keeping with the style of the main house.

The Starbuck try-works, sheds and candle house stood near the house, between it and Pleasant Street on Starbuck Court.

3 NORTH LIBERTY STREET

The John Williams House stands at the corner of North Libert and Lily Streets and was either built or moved there between 1720 and 1745. It was once the home of Captain Reuben Chase 2nd, a whaling master who made three successful voyages to the Pacific Ocean on the ship TRITON of New Bedford. In more recent times, Tony Sarg, the artist, made this house his summer home for many years.

27 NORTH LIBERTY STREET

When Seth Ray sold this house to Nathaniel Barrett in 1802, it had been "built out of a cooper's shop".At the time of the Revolutionary War, the names of Nathaniel Barrett and Samuel Barrett who probably was his older brother are included in the list of those who lent money to the government. Both men were silversmiths. A later owner of the property was Hezekiah Pinkham, a master mariner.

29 NORTH LIBERTY STREET

Built about 1798 for Seth Ray, a cooper, this house is a combination of a "typical" Nantucket house, gambrel roof and lean-to.

90 (?) NORTH LIBERTY STREET

This house was built in 1724 by Major Josiah Coffin, a son of Jethro Coffin, and was continuously occupied by his descendants until 1925 when it was purchased by the present owner. It is one of the earliest, best preserved and most carefully restored houses on the island.

1 NORTH MILL STREET

This late eighteenth century dwelling was owned for many years by the Johnson family.

15 NORTH WATER STREET

Soon after he bought the land from his father, George Hussey, in 1795, Uriel Hussey built this house at 15 North Water Street. After he died in 1801, his widow, Phebe Hussey, sold the property to Robert Brayton, a cooper. In 1832, Mrs. Hussey and her daughter, Phebe, moved to Philadelphia. It is a "typival" Nantucket house with four bayed facade and a later pilastered Greek Revival doorway.

5 ORANGE STREET

This dwelling is one of the eight gambrel roofed structures now remaining on Nantucket, the others having had their roofs raised and gabled. It is also one of earliest brick house here although originally, only the sides were of brick with the front and rear of wood. It was built in 1774 by Captain Silas Jones, a year after he married Judith Gardner. Their son, Daniel Jones, occupied it for many years.

During the Great Fire of 1846, the wooden front of the house was badly damaged as it was on the fringe of the conflaration but its brick ends helped to stop the fire's devastating progress.

11 ORANGE STREET

The Unitarian-Universalist Church, erected in 1809, dominates the skyline of Nantucket with its golden dome. It was built by Elisha Ramsdell, its tower was added in 1815 and was replaced in 1830 in Federal stlye by Perez Jenkins in order to house the Portuguese bell cast in in 1810 and clock given by William Hadwen Starbuck. It was also intended to serve as a fire watch and the tower's dome is 109 feet, 5½ inches above the sidewalk. Changes in the building itself were made by Frederick Brown Coleman in 1844 when the balcony was removed, tall side windows installed, double stairs placed in the vestibule and the interior decorated by Carl Wendt. The organ was built in Boston by William Marcellus Goodrich in 1831.

12 ORANGE STREET

Christopher Hussey built this house on Wesco Hill at the corner of Gunter Alley, now known as Stone Alley, in 1788. The north section was an early lean-to with the two bayed south section added later. The two story bay window came late in the nineteenth century. The Husseys, Carys and Barnards intermarried and members of all three families lived there at various times.

14½ ORANGE STREET

In 1754, Josiah Coffin, son of Jethro Coffin, gave this land which he had inherited from his uncle, Edward Coffin, to his son-in-law, Samuel Calder who had married his daughter Ruth two years earlier. It is believed that the house was built soon afterward. At a later time, it was occupied by Abel Chase who was a hatter on Main Street. Captain William Mooers also lived there for many years. He was the captain of the BEDFORD which in 1783 took a cargo of oil from Nantucket to London and was the first to display the American flag in a British port.

16 ORANGE STREET

This house was built about 1755 for Andrew Myrick Beard, merchant, who was related to Elizabeth Myrick Beard who lived in Number 18 Orange Street. Like many other houses in this area, it was constructed with old beams taken from older houses.

18 ORANGE STREET

Matthew and Elizabeth Myrick Beard built this house about 1770. Their daughter Sally lived here all her life until her death in 1875 at the age of 94. Her husband, John Gardner, was a blacksmith who died in 1809, presumably on a whaling vessel. Their daughter, Eunice Jenkins, for $605.00
died a month after her mother and the house was then sold/to Andrew and Amelia Winslow who operated an ice cream parlor in the two front rooms. In 893, the house was purchased by Myron Dudley, a minister and a founder of The Nantucket Historical Association.

22 ORANGE STREET

Built in 1760 for Nathaniel Woodbury in the Fifth Fish Lot Share, this dwelling has two ridged chimneys, roof walk and five bayed facade. Captain Seth Folger, owner of the house in 1796, made several whaling voyages to the Pacific whaling grounds in the ship HARMONY and the REBECCA.

He died at sea on a voyage to the Cape of Good Hope in the ship ALERT in 1815. This house has been owned by only three families in over 200 years.

26 ORANGE STREET

Built in 1723 at Sherburne, the house was moved to its present location about 1755 by Seth Folger, the father of Captain Seth Folger who owned 22 Orange Street. It was also owned by John Beard and his descendants for many years. The wing on the north side was added in the late 1800s.

This dwelling stands on the highest point on Orange Street and is 56 feet above sea level.

28 ORANGE STREET

At the edge of Quanato Bank on Wesco Hill in the Sixth Fish Lot Share is the land Dr. Benjamin Tupper bought from George Hussey in 1752 which built a house in 1769. The old dwelling/is the rear portion of the present house has a basement roasting fireplace and bake oven in the large, central six flue chimney. The front door which faced south as was customary, is the present side door. It is believed that it was in this house that Hector St. John de Crevecoeur, author of LETTERS FROM AN AMERICAN FARMER, was entertained during his visit to Nantucket in 1772. The map of Nantucket in the LETTERS was drawn by Dr. Tupper's son, James.

In 1818, the property was conveyed to Thomas Folger, master mariner, who enlarged the house by building the section which fronts on Orange Street in 1820. His son, Charles James Folger, spent his boyhood in this house and 1881, became Secretary of the Treasury under President Arthur.

33 ORANGE STREET

In 1760, Robert Wyer bought a piece of land in the Sixth Fish Lot

Share from Tristram Starbuck and built this dwelling shortly afterward. It is thought that the timber used to construct this house may have been used in two previous buildings which may have once stood in Sherburne.

Christopher Wyer who bought the house from his father in 1814 was a ship owner as well as a whaling master. His daughter, Catherine, became the second wife of Matthew Starbuck, owner of "Middle Brick" on Main Street. In 1832, Peter Macy, the son of the island historian, Obed Macy, and at another time, the owner was the Reverend Seth Swift, the first Unitarian minister on Nantucket. George Hussey Tracy, who bought the house in 1865, was an Army captain who died of yellow fever in the Civil War, leaving the property to his mother, Mary Hussey Tracy. It became the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Dr. William E. Gardner who lived there many years before he died, writing many books and papers about Nantucket.

37 ORANGE STREET

This house was built in 1766 by John Jackson, an off-islander, who was the first silversmith known to have lived and worked on Nantucket. He married Abigail Coffin in 1753 and is thought to have trained Benjamin Bunker, a later island silversmith and Revolutionary War hero. Restoration of this house was undertaken in 1971.

34 ORANGE STREET

Ebenezer Gardner, the great grandfather of Dr. Will Gardner, married two sisters and nieces of John Jackson: Rachel Jackson after Susanna died in 1794. During his first marriage, he lived on Plumb Lane next to his wife's family but when he remarried in 1795, he built this house. During the Revolutionary War, he was privateersman on the sloop SAUCY which was captured by the British. He was impressed into the British Navy where he served several years. After the War, he spent the rest of his life at sea in whaling and merchant vessels.

In 1831, this house became the home of Dr. Reuben Macy, son of Obed Macy. The next owner was a whaling captain who was master of the ship ORION. Following him was James H. Haughton, master of the ship MANNON. From 1910 to 1919, it was owned by Mary E. Waller who wrote several books with Nantucket settings.

43 ORANGE STREET

Originally a lean-to house, this dwelling was built in the mid 1700s. At some later date, it was moved to its present site and placed on a high basement. A stairhall replaces the original chimney and the ridge chimney is new.

44 ORANGE STREET

This house which was built by William Clisby in the late 1700s commands a fine view of the harbor. It remained in that family until 1872. In 1917, while it was owned by Uberto C. Crosby, a small house situated between it and Orange Street was moved away, making room for a two story addition and garage. The house has been greatly changed and enlarged but still retains much of its original charm.

49 ORANGE STREET

Nathaniel Barnard, trader, sold 22½ rods of land in the Ninth Fish Lot Share to Silvanus Gardner and John Barnard Orpin in 1796. They built this house in the next several years for it is known that Orpin sold his half of the house and land in 1802 to Jacob Andrews.

53 ORANGE STREET

The Seth Coffin House, built about 1740, is one of the older lean-to houses in Nantucket. It is an example of the earliest method of building a house with one room on the first floor, with the chimney at the end but not exposed. In 1942, Everett Uberto Crosby restored the house, revamped the interior in order to make more room and added a small kitchen ell.

5 PINE STREET

Built in 1750 for John Pinkham, this three bayed, two and a half story house has had several additions but still retains its old fireplaces and fine old panelling.

10 PINE STREET

The oldest part of this house (c. 1676) is said to have stood in the old homestead region of Sherburne near the head of Hummock Pond and was moved to its present location in 1820 and enlarged. In Sherburne, it was the home of Mary and Nathaniel Starbuck and because of its ample living room, it was often used for community gatherings and came to be called "Parliament House".

It was here in 1704 that a crowd assembled to hear Thomas Story, a visiting Quaker minister from England. He made such an impression on his listeners, and especially on Mary Starbuck, that a Friends Meeting was held afterwards on each Sunday in the Starbuck home. The meetings were continued there until the first Friends Meeting House was built in 1710.

15 PINE STREET

This house was built in the 1750s and in the early 1800s, roof was raised and an ell added. During the 1780s, it was the home of William Mitchell who later moved to Vestal Street where his famous daughter, Maria Mitchell, was born in 1818.

3 PLEASNT STREET

Ths house which stands at the head of Summer Street was built in the style of the late eighteenth century in 1804 for Reuben Dow four years after he married Elizabeth Bunker. Its entrance is a recent restoration but the projected planked window frames, small paned sash, interior panelling and door frames are original. The ell on the south side was made into two stories about 1860.

8 PLEASANT STREET

Built in 1785, this house was the home of Walter Folger, Jr. who built the astronomical, tall case clock which is now on display at the Peter Foulger Museum. He was a mathematician and surveyor of note, an astronomer who built his own telescope, a lawyer and Congressman, historian and philosopher.

In 1850, the house was purchased by Captain Charles Starbuck and was later the home of Captain James Wyer who married Starbuck's widow.

10 PLEASANT STREET

This house was built about 1770 and although it has seen many changes, it is a fine example of how old island dwellings can be adapted to modern living. Originally a "typical" three-quarter house, it is notable for the solid panelled walls around its fireplaces. The house was remodeled in in the 1840s by W.H. Shaw and more recently, was restored with the late Alfred Shurrocks as architect. The doorway is Federal.

11 PLEASANT STREET

Situated at the corner of Starbuck Court, this dwelling was built some time before 1808 when it was sold by Freeman and Anna Gardner to John Munroe. There are many early features about the house, including the ridge chimney, the original kitchen in the basement and nicely preserved root cellar. The center door has a modern portico.

16 PLEASANT STREET

This dwelling which is thought to have been built about 1770 is a two and a half story "typical" Nantucket house. Each flank wall on the first story is constrcted of brick and there is an enclosed entrance pent.

25 PLEASANT STREET

Facing south with its side on Pleasant Street, this lean-to house was built between 1720 and 1745 when it was conveyed by Jonathan Folger to his son-in-law, Stephen Chase. Stephen Chase's daughter, Margaret, married Crispus Gardner and their daughter, Lydia, married Cyrus Hussey who was a co-hero in the GLOBE mutiny, one of the bloodiest mutinies ever to occur on a whaler. Hussey and Thomas Lay, the only survivors, spent two years in the Mulgraves before being rescued by the U.S. Navy schooner, DOLPHIN.

EATON'S
CORRASABLE
BOND
USA
BERKSHIRE
COTTON FIBER CONTENT

17 PROSPECT STREET

This house was built in 1769 by Edward Allen in a style very much like his earlier house at 21 Prospect Street. Originally shingled on front and sides, the front was later covered with clapboard and a French return was added to the front gutter. The east room has a champfered beam.

It was the home of Captain Joseph G. Remsen for many years before his death in 1923. The son of Daniel and Eleanor Coleman Remsen, he went to sea on a clipper ship in his youth, served later with the Life Guard Service and after 1887, was keeper of the lighthouse at Brant Point and later, the light at Sankaty Head. Oldtimers remember that he used to paint one side of his house red and the other side green to represent the port and starboard sides of a ship.

21 PROSPECT STREET

Edward Allen built this lean-to house in 1763 several years after he married Anna Macy, daughter of Abraham and Anna Worth Mcy. The asymmetrical spacing of the windows in relation the door creates interest yet retains the balance of the facade. A pilastered Federal doorway is a later addition.

30 PROSPECT STREET

Erected on the site of one of the four windmills which stood on Popsquatchet Hills, now known as Mill Hill, this dwelling was constructed by combining three old houses. Timbers came from Jeremiah Coleman's 1745 house on Warren Street, an ancient structure on upper Main Street and the Hamblin property on Cliff Road. The result is a house in the style of the 1700s.

The leaded, diamond paned windows are copied from a casement sash taken from a Gull Island house, now on exhibition at the Foulger Museum. From the Hamblin property came the stone at the front door with the initials "G" and "E", believed to stand for George and Eunice Gardner

married in 1696.

2 QUINCE STREET

This house was built about 1747 by Theophilus Pinkham. When the street was opened, it was called Crown Court but later was changed to its present name before the time of the Walling Map of 1858.

5 QUINCE STREET

Built just before the Revolution, this house was the home of David Hussey. There is a ridge chimney, a roof walk, a five bayed facade and a later Greek Revival doorway with sidelights.

14 QUINCE STREET

When the Wesco Acre Lots were laid out in 1720, the land at this address was assigned to James Coffin II who gave it to his son, Nathan, in 1726. The husband of Lydia Bunker, Nathan probably built the earliest section some time between 1730 and 1750 as a small / four room lean-to which faced south. Many changes have been made since that time: the northern roof slope was raised to make two and a half full stories, an extension on the east was first one story, then raised to two stories, a kitchen and shed were placed in front of the original front door on the south and an additional flue added to the chimney. Although the original design of the house has been obscured, the interior retains visible evidence of its construction.

15 QUINCE STREET

This house was built about 1795 for Mrs. Ann Gelston, widow of Dr. Samuel Gelston who had come to Nantucket from Southampton, New York. The dwelling is two and a half stories on a brick basement with ridge chimney and three bayed facade. A later Greek Revival doorway and stoop and an extension on eastern side have been added.

8 RAYS COURT

Rays Court was named for John Ray who built the original, northeastern section of this dwelling as a lean-to half house facing east about 1748. By the end of the 1800s, many changes had been made by extensive additions on the south and west sides. Further changes were made around 1900 and include a porch on the east, a bay window and tall western extension.

SCONSET

SHANNUNGA

Situated on Broadway in Siasconset, Shannunga was built about 1682 and is believed to be one of two houses which predate the Jethro Coffin house. The smaller portion was brought from Sesacacha, a small fishing village at that time. The interior of this section still displays its crude beginnings as seen in the overhead exposed beams and evidence that that a wooden fireplace, with the still visible original tree trunk posts splayed top and bottom, was there before the brick one. The house originally had beveled edge siding instead of shingles. Soon after 1700, changes began to be made and probably about 1780, the highest portion of the dwelling was added.

In 1835, it was known as the Betsy Cary House where she kept a tavern. Another name was Saint's Rest but was given its present name when a quarterboard from the ship SHANNUNGA washed ashore at Tom Never's Head in 1852. The building also was used as a post office for many years by Mrs. Cary's son-in-law, Captain William Baxter, who brought the mail from town and distributed it there.

DEXIOMA

Judging by its architecture and inside hinges, Dexioma, which means Welcome in Greek, was built early in the eighteenth century. Constructed of two houses joined together, the south section is a little earlier than the northern part. Stephen Hussey owned it in 1814 and in 1844, it was purchased by Captain Sanford Wilber in exchange for three sheep commons and since then has remained in that family.

ROOF-TREE

The date of this house is not known but it is reputed to have been built by Silvanus Coffin before 1800 as in 1805, it was inherited by a family named Fisher. In 1865, it was sold to Captain Obed Bunker.

Later, it was the summer home of Mrs. Billy Thompson, a noted actress known as Isabel Irving.

It is a "L" shaped house with only one wart on the side. Together with several other old whale houses in the village, it has an interesting hanging loft or crag loft.

SANS SOUCI

"Sans Souci" stands on Cener Street and is one of the most interesting houses in the village. It was the first house there to have a second story added to it and the house itself was built in four stages. It was first a twine factory in Nantucket in the early 1700s. in the late 1700s, it was moved to 'Sconset where the upstairs was added, using hardwood taken from old shipwrecks. The two later additions were made in the nineteenth century.

Every window is a different size. The unusual chimney is of the stack or free standing type used in medieval English architecture.

3 STEP LANE

In 1684, William Gayer, one of few Englishmen in America who were entitled to Coats of Arms, built his home at what is now 51 Centre Street. Many years later, his house was taken down and parts of it moved to Step Lane to later become, with additions, the Veranda House and more recently, The Overlook Hotel.

1 and 3 STONE ALLEY

Number One Stone Alley was built about 1720 for Solomon Gardner, the son of Captain Richard and Mary Gardner. About 1753, Number Three was added and in that year, Solomon Gardner, Jr., and Paul Gardner received the property from their father. Solomon Junior occupied Number One (the eastern half) and Paul, the western half. In 1764, Solomon bought the half owned by his brother. However, in that same year, Solomon, who was captain of a whaling brig, was lost at sea with the whole crew, thirteen men in all, on a whaling voyage to the Grand Banks. Ownership then passed to another brother, Stephen Gardner, and from him to his son, Stephen Junior and then into other hands.

7 SUMMER STREET

The house at 7 Summer Street was built about 1790 and is a "typical" Nantucket house with four bayed facade, ridge chimney, later pilastered Greek Revival doorway and extensions on the east and rear with shed roofs.

The house is depicted in a water color done about 1797 by Phebe Folger and may be seen at The Peter Foulger Museum.

THE JETHRO COFFIN HOUSE

The Jethro Coffin House, familiarly referred to as the "Oldest House", was built in 1686 as a wedding present for him and his wife, Mary Gardner, from the two fathers: Peter Coffin and John Gardner. It is believed that the lumber for the house came from Peter Coffin's timberlands in Dover, New Hampshire. Interesting features of this old lean-to are the huge central chimney with an inverted horse shoe in raised bricks, the enormous fireplaces, the heavy ship's knees used in its construction and the so-called "Indian closet". The Nantucket Historical Association acquired the house in 1923 from Tristram Coffin of Poughkeepsie, New York.

1 TATTLE COURT

This lean-to house was built after 1717. However, in 1950 when it was carefully restored by the late Earl S. Ray for his daughter and her husband, evidence was found of pre-existing casement windows which gives credence to the tradition that it was a late 17th century house which stood by Reed Pond in Old Sherburne, was moved to town after 1730 and rebuilt on this site. A shed roof extension was added on the east before 1750.

3 TRADERS LANE

This dwelling was built in the mid 1700s and was originally a lean-to house. It is a two and a half story shingle structure with ridge chimney and three bayed facade. The south section was added in the late 19th century. It is believed that the name of this lane developed through the fact that Peleg Bunker, a trader, lived across the street.

15 UNION STREET

This house was built by Richard Lake Coleman soon after he bought the land in 1796. Soon afterward, he sold the property to William Nichols. Timothy C. Clapp, a tailor from Rhode Island, bought it in 1825 and it remained in his family until 1928. The house is a good example of a "typical" Nantucket house, has a high brick basement with summer kitchen and wood stoop. In the 1930s, it was restored by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Taylor who added a roof walk and an ell at the rear.

17 UNION STREET

This house was built in 1802 for Captain Joseph West who, after the death of his wife, sold it in 1817 to Obed Cathcart, master of several Nantucket and New Bedford whalerships on voyages to the Pacific between 1826 and 1853.

19 UNION STREET

Nathan Nye bought the land in 1803 and in 1805, sold the "land with dwelling thereon" to Silvanus Ewer. Silvanus Ewer was a ship's carpenter from Osterville who eventually became a highly successful whaling merchant. His son, Peter Ewer, invented the "camels" or floating drydocks which for a while were successful in floating the whaleships over the sandbar at the entrance to the harbor.

25 UNION STREET

Built between 1757 and 1774, this dwelling was originally the home of Stephen Gardner, a blacksmith, who had acquired the land through a division of the Richard Gardner Estate. Although a small shop was the only building on the property in 1757, when Samuel Barrett, a goldsmith from Boston, bought it in 1774, it included a dwelling as well. Later owners were Christopher Mitchell, a merchant, and Charles Grant, master mariner, who sold it to Benjamin Wyer in 1866.

30 UNION STREET

This house is a modified "typical" Nantucket house. It was built about 1807 when Ebenezer Drew transferred it to Gershom Drew.

31 UNION STREET

Little is known about this house but it probably was built around the end of the 18th century as in 1813, a deed describes the property as consisting of "dwelling, school house, outhouses" etc.

32 UNION STREET

Built soon after the Revolution for William Coffin, this gambrel roof house was restored and occupied by Marjorie Mills, well known columnist of the BOSTON HERALD. On the shore, southeast of the dwelling was William Coffin's rope walk. It was owned later by Isaac Austin for many years. The pilastered doorway is a more recent addition.

41 UNION STREET

This house probably was built about 1790 and in the typical plan of the period, is a two and a half story building on a high brick basement with ridge chimney, roof walk, four bayed facade and wood stoop.

61 UNION STREET

This leanto house was built about 1782 by David Coffin Jr. who had been deeded the land by his father. The property then was sold to William Ray and from him to Obed Cash in 1801. In 1839, it was sold to Allen Fuller. Located in West Monomoy Shares, the house has a three bayed facade and originally had a ridge chimney which was removed to make space for a stairway.

11 VESTAL STREET

Little is known about this "typical" two and a half story, four bayed facade house. It was built about 1790 and originally had a roof walk.

17 VESTAL STREET

Built in 1805, the "Old Gaol" is one of the oldest jails in the United States. It is constructed of oak logs placed cabin style one on the other, bolted with iron, then sheathed with pine and shingled. Iron straps and huge iron bars complete this stronghold for offenders. One cell is sheathed in iron and was used for the violently insane or dangerous felons. Two of the cells had fireplaces and all had bunks. It is now owned by The Nantucket Historical Association and is open to visitors.

3 WEST CHESTER STREET

West Chester Street, earlier called West Centre Street and even before that, Chester Street, is probably the oldest street on the island. It extended from the old settlement at Capaum to the Great Harbor. The Meeting House, Town House and many dwellings of the first settlers were built along this road which connected the two harbors.

The house at Number Three was built about 1810 and is a "typical" house with two and a half stories, brick basement, ridge chimney and roof walk.

9 WEST CHESTER STREET

This "typical" house, built about 1790, was the home of Thomas Hussey who married Anna Barnard in 1788. It was occupied by members of the Hussey family until 1901.

32 WEST CHESTER STREET

One of the first leanto dwellings erected at the new settlement at Wesco, this house was built between 1722 and 1724 by Richard Gardner, Jr. for his son, Richard Gardner 3rd, a whaling captain who was lost at sea in 1725.

The house faces due south, overlooking the Lily Pond, and was built with exposed corner posts and oak beams, massive fireplaces and huge chimney. When the house was restored about 1950 under the supervision of Ellery H. Peterson, the old timbers were found to be in perfect condition under layers of paint and paper as was the fine old panelling which was discovered under canvas and paper.

8 WESTMINSTER STREET

Westminster Street was opened early in the nineteenth century when the Academy was built. Since there were no public schools until 1827, the Academy was at first a private school.

Eight Westminster Street probably was built just before 1800 for the parents of Captain Robert Joy Fitch.

3 WEYMOUTH STREET

This leanto house with ridge chimney and three bayed facade was built about 1755 for Richard Swain.